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Dr Haili He
Elsevier Beijing Ltd
Beijing.

Via Professor Michael Plummer, Johns Hopkins University

Dear Dr He,

I'm writing with regard to the Elsevier proposal to take the Journal of Asian Economics from its founding association, the ACAES, and to replace the current editor, Professor Calla Wiemer.

I wish to register my very strong protest. I have been associated with the journal since its inception. I have watched it progress to becoming one of the foremost journals on the Asian economies, one that is very highly regarded in the Asian region and internationally. I believe I can make these statements with some authority as I sit on the editorial boards of 10 other academic journals with an Asian interest. So I think I know the Asian academic and publishing scene reasonably well.

The journal has only reached this highly regarded status because of the huge amount of work by Professor Wiemer, and before her Professor Plummer and Professor Dutta. These journals do well precisely because people like these three scholars have volunteered huge amounts of their valuable time.

The proposed decision is particularly puzzling in view of the journal's very good metrics, especially for a regional journal. The journal also has played a key role in nurturing younger scholars from developing Asian countries. These are the scholars of the future, in what is about to be (and in some respects already is) the world's economically dominant region.

It goes without saying that, while Elsevier is of course a major international publisher, and technically the owner of the journal, it will seriously damage your reputation in the scholarly community if it is widely regarded as acting unilaterally, and displaying such scant regard for the dedicated work of the journal editors and its board.

I do hope that you will take this opportunity to reconsider your plans, and I will stay closely in touch with developments.

Yours sincerely,


CRICOS Pro

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